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coined earlier out of the same quantity of silver. Many writers, in speaking of the value of the silver peso have spoken of it as if it were worth 50 cents, which value it had nominally some eight or ten years ago, but in speaking of the peso of before 1873 it is not only misleading, but entirely inaccurate, to speak of it as being worth 50 cents. It was actually worth a dollar or slightly more most of the time.

On the whole we cannot perceive that this book is in any respect superior to that part of the History of California written by Henry L. Oak, and which comprises the first three volumes of Mr. Bancroft's History of California. Prof. Chapman had more data at his command than Oak, but the added information does not materially change our views of the history of California. Although possessed of all the information that Mr. Oak had and a very considerable amount besides, we do not see that he has constructed a work which is at all comparable to that of his predecessor as a serious historical contribution, nor do we think that it is any more readable than that of Oak. As time goes on it is more and more realized that the work of Oak constitutes one of the few first-class historical works produced in this country, and that no one has yet been found to improve upon it. Unfortunately for his reputation, the identity of his work is lost in the thirty-nine volumes of Bancroft's History, wherein it is mixed up with some that is good, some that is bad, and much that is very indifferent. Oak possessed a high degree of critical acumen and utilized the materials at his command with great skill. In addition to all this he had a very happy facility of expression and a very good sense of proportion.

H. R. Wagner.



A California Pilgrimage. Being an account of the 65th anniversary of Bishop Kip's First Missionary journey through the San Joaquin Valley, together with Bishop Kip's own story of the events commemorated. Published at Fresno, California, for private subscription only. 1921.

These letters, three in number, originally appeared serially in "The Spirit of Missions," in February, March and April, 1856, and heretofore have never been reprinted. They form the

earliest accounts of travel through that part of the country. The expedition left San Francisco, October 1, 1855, and continued traveling until October 21. The three letters are: I. Los Angeles; II. Fort Tejon; and III. The Plains and Fort Miller. The Bishop was an accomplished writer and has given many interesting details of the country, the Indians, and the incidents of his trip. On leaving Los Angeles he naïvely remarks:—"Our driver was also well armed and the gentlemen with me had their rifles and revolvers. It may seem strange to an eastern reader to hear of a visitation being made with such accompaniments, but here there is no help for it." As the good bishop no doubt carried his prayer-book, it was truly a strange mixture of weapons both spiritual and carnal.

Two hundred and fifty copies were issued, illustrated, and beautifully printed by Bruce Brough at San Francisco.

Robert Ernest Cowan.



Gospel Pioneering: Reminiscences of early Congregationalism in California, 1853-1920. By William C. Pond, D. D. (Oberlin: Ohio), 1921.

Though not of the earliest clergymen in California (for Benton, Willey, and others were already active in 1849), the author of this biography was one of the youngest and most alert, and the one who has had the longest term of active service—from 1853, the year of his arrival, to the present year (1922)—when at the age of ninety-three, he is still so earnestly engaged in the work of the Oriental mission that with reluctance he has withdrawn from it long enough to complete the story of his life.

Dr. Pond was the first pastor (1853-1855) of the Greenwich St. Church in San Francisco; the next ten years (1855-1865) were actively passed in the mining towns of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and elsewhere on the frontier; he was in Petaluma (1865-1868); and for the last forty-seven years he has been tireless in laboring among the Chinese of San Francisco.

Robert Ernest Cowan.